

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 919
By Hargett

A RESOLUTION to honor and commend Harold Gwatney upon
his induction into the Society of Entrepreneurs.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the members of this General Assembly should salute those citizens who through their extraordinary efforts have distinguished themselves as professionals and community leaders of whom we can all be proud; and

WHEREAS, one such noteworthy person is Harold Gwatney, who has been chosen for induction into the Society of Entrepreneurs, a prestigious honor that speaks to Mr. Gwatney's dedication to his business and his community; and

WHEREAS, founded in 1991, the Society of Entrepreneurs was created to foster the development of the entrepreneurial spirit and to recognize the contributions of entrepreneurs to business and the community; and

WHEREAS, the Society of Entrepreneurs selected only five new members to join their organization this year, and these chosen individuals have demonstrated a gift for entrepreneurship in their professional endeavors, yet they have used this gift to enrich their respective communities as well; and

WHEREAS, Harold Gwatney's experience in the automobile industry dates back to 1942 when he began sweeping floors and washing parts at his uncle's garage; he then worked for Critz Chevrolet in North Little Rock as a mechanic's helper and became a certified mechanic before graduating from high school; and

WHEREAS, in 1957, Mr. Gwatney received approval to start a Chevrolet franchise, and Harold Gwatney Chevrolet was founded, but the automobile industry has proven to be just one of his many business interests; Harold Gwatney has founded a variety of businesses and ventures, which have included an apartment complex, a national bank, a realty company, an insurance company, a financial properties company, and many others; and

WHEREAS, in 1988, Mr. Gwatney and his son, Russell Gwatney, moved to Memphis and purchased the family's second Chevrolet dealership; Mr. Gwatney further expanded the family's business ventures when he purchased a third Chevrolet dealership and started a Saturn dealership, one of the first in the nation; and

WHEREAS, Harold Gwatney, in the continuing spirit of entrepreneurialism, purchased a Ford dealership in Millington in 1993; he has also founded two more Saturn dealerships in Tennessee that, like his other franchises, have a reputation for quality service, honesty, and integrity; and

WHEREAS, a consummate professional, Harold Gwatney is also a model public servant who shares his successes and talents with his country and community; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Gwatney first answered the call to duty as a teenager when he joined the Arkansas National Guard; a proud and loyal soldier, Harold Gwatney served his country as a member of the Army National Guard until 1989, when he retired at the rank of Major General; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Gwatney expertly served two terms on the North Little Rock City Council; he is very active in the Memphis Area Chamber of Commerce, and he recently donated a substantial amount of money to the RiteCare Childhood Language Program, which is part of the Scottish Rite Foundation that helps children with speech disabilities; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Gwatney epitomizes the spirit and commitment that are characteristic of the distinguished members of the Society of Entrepreneurs, and he will be officially inducted into the Society and recognized for his contributions to Tennessee on April 24, 2004, at the Society's annual awards ceremony; and

WHEREAS, this General Assembly finds it appropriate to pause in its deliberations to acknowledge and applaud Harold Gwatney for his remarkable accomplishments; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED THIRD GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we hereby honor and commend Harold Gwatney for his meritorious

service to the state of Tennessee and our nation, congratulate him on his induction into the Society of Entrepreneurs, and extend to him our best wishes for every future success.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.